Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ signal processor which ~~inputs~~ a first

2   image signal encoded by a first compressing and encoding method and transcodes the first image

3   signal to a second image signal encoded by a second compressing and encoding method, ~~said~~

4   ~~transcoder~~ the signal processor comprising:

5   a picture selector which generates a subset image signal of the first image signal

6   by extracting pictures of one or more specific types in frames or fields from the first image

7   signal;

8   a first decoder which decodes the subset image signal generated by the picture

9   selector at a decoding rate;

10   a first encoder which encodes the decoded image signal by a second compressing

11   and encoding method; and

12   a video stream supplying section configured to supply ~~a bit rate of~~ the first image

13   signal at a bit rate to the picture selector to compensate for an amount of code of the pictures

14   which are not extracted by the picture selector, the bit rate of the first image signal being set

15   higher than the decoding rate of the first decoder ~~to compensate for an amount of code of the~~

16   ~~pictures which are not extracted in the picture selector~~,

17   wherein the picture selector uses the extracted pictures to generate the subset

18   image signal whose effective length is reduced.

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1   2.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ signal processor which reads out a first

2   image signal encoded by a first compressing and encoding method from a recoding medium and

3   transcodes the first image signal to a second image signal encoded by a second compressing and

4   encoding method, ~~said transcoder~~ signal processor comprising:

5   an interface section which generates a subset image signal of the first image

6 signal by extracting pictures of one or more specific types in frames or fields from the first image

7 signal;

8   a first decoder which decodes the subset image signal generated by the interface

9 section <u>at a decoding rate</u>;

10   a first encoder which encodes the decoded image signal by a second compressing

11 and encoding method; and

12   a video stream supplying section configured to supply ~~a bit rate of~~ the first image

13 signal <u>at a bit rate</u> to the <u>interface section to compensate for an amount of code of the picture</u>

14 <u>which is not extracted by the interface section</u> ~~picture selector~~, the bit rate <u>of the first image</u>

15 <u>signal</u> being set <u>higher than the decoding rate of the first decoder</u> ~~to compensate for an amount of~~

16 ~~code of the pictures which are not extracted in the picture selector~~,

17   wherein the interface section uses the extracted pictures to generate the subset

18 image signal whose effective length is reduced.

19

1   3.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ <u>signal processor</u> according to claim 1,

2 wherein the subset image signal has the extracted pictures arranged sequentially therein and the

3 effective length of the subset image signal is reduced.

4

1   4.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ <u>signal processor</u> according to claim 2,

2 wherein the interface section extracts and reads out pictures of one or more specific types by

3 referring to management information recorded along with the first image signal on the recording

4 medium.

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1   5.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ <u>signal processor</u> according to claim 1,

2 wherein the picture selector performs picture extraction in such a manner that each extracted

3 picture can refer to another extracted picture for motion compensation.

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1   6.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ <u>signal processor</u> according to claim 1,

2 wherein: the first compressing and encoding method is an MPEG2 method and the second

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3   compressing and encoding method is an MPEG4 method; and the picture selector generates the

4   subset image signal by extracting I-pictures and P-pictures.

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1   7.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ signal processor according to claim 1,

2   wherein the picture selector allows the user to specify what types of pictures are to be extracted.

3

1   8.   (Canceled)

2

1   9.   (Currently Amended) A ~~transcoder~~ signal processor according to claim 1,

2   further comprising: a frame memory for storing the image signal decoded by the first decoder;

3   and a display section which reads out the image signal from the frame memory and outputs the

4   image signal to a display unit; wherein images being transcoded are displayed on the display

5   unit.

6

1   10.   (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus using the ~~transcoder~~ signal

2   processor according to claim 1, said imaging apparatus comprising: an image pickup section

3   which picks up an object; a second encoder which, by the first compressing and encoding

4   method, encodes the first image signal supplied from the image pickup section; and a recording

5   and reproducing section which records and reproduces the first image signal encoded by the

6   second encoder to and from a recording medium, wherein the first image signal reproduced from

7   the recording medium is supplied to the ~~transcoder~~ signal processor.

8

1   11.   (Original)   An imaging apparatus according to claim 10, further

2   comprising: a receiver which receives an image signal from the outside; wherein the second

3   encoder encodes the image signal supplied from the receiver by the first compressing and

4   encoding method.

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1   12.   (Original)   An imaging apparatus according to claim 10, further

2   comprising: a receiver which receives the first image signal encoded by the first compressing and

3   encoding method from the outside; wherein the recording and reproducing section records and

4   reproduces the first image signal supplied from the receiver to and from the recording medium.

1   13.   (Original)   An imaging apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the

2   recording and reproducing apparatus generates management information from the first image

3   signal recorded on the recording medium and records the management information on the

4   recording medium.

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1   14.   (Currently Amended) A signal processor ~~using the transcoder~~ according to

2   claim 1, wherein said signal processor inputs a first image signal encoded by a first compressing

3   and encoding method, transcodes the first image signal to a second image signal encoded by a

4   second compressing and encoding method and outputs the second image signal to external

5   equipment.